THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to technological development and installation of improved methods of communication including Teleprinter Circuits over Microwave system in replacement of the existing H.F. Telegraphy links on the Railways, the category of wireless operators was getting progressively shrunk. A decision was therefore, taken to freeze the Cadre of the Wireless Operators and redeploy them on Teleprinter service after giving proper training. However, the scope for promotion of the existing staff has been kept.

In 1984, a proposal for restructuring of the Cadre of Wireless Operators was formulated. However, this was not approved as it was held that in view of the conversion process of Wireless Operators to the Teleprinter working, most of the Wireless Operators could be fitted into Teleprinter side and restructuring of Wireless Operators might act as disincentive to switching over process.

Electrification of Pune-Wadi section of South Central Railway

1504. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to electrify the Pune-Wadi section of South Central Railway in the current year;

(b) if not, whether Government have considered the need for such electrification and by when the project is likely to be taken up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to constraint of resources and relative priorities for electrification of other high density routes, there is, at present, no proposal to electrify Pune-Wadi Section of South Central Railway.

Conversion of metre Gauge to Broad Gauge

1505. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Northern Railway propose to convert the 443 kilometres of metre gauge track into broad gauge track during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Kanpur-Lucknow broad gauge line is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are as follows :

(i) Merta Road-Lalgarh	177
(ii) Lalgarh-Kolayat	47
(iii) Kotkapura-Fazilka	80
(iv) Lucknow-Kanpur	56
(v) Rewari-Delhi	83
	443 kms.

(c) During the financial year 1992-93.

Finalisation of tenders at Divisional Level

1506. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what are the guidelines issued in regard to finalising tenders at Divisional Level and whether they are followed in true spirit at Vijayawada Division of S.C. Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) :

Guidelines in respect of finalisation of tenders are contained in the Indian Railways Code for Engineering Department (Revised Edition) 1989 (as amended from time to time) which is a priced publication. Compliance of these guidelines/provisions is compulsory for all concerned with tenders of civil engineering works.

Investigations made earlier revealed that works contracts on Vijayawada Division of S.C. Railway like all other Divisions on Indian Railways, are awarded on rational basis as per rules, regulations and guidelines in vogue.

Conversion of metre gauge lines into broad gauge in the country

1507. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to convert all metre gauge lines into broad gauge in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken; and

(c) the progress so far made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) Indian Railways have taken up an Action Plan under which Narrow Gauge and Metre Gauge lines will be selectively converted to Broad Gauge to move towards 'Uni-Gauge'. Under Phase-I of the Action Plan, 11.000 Kms M.G./N.G. lines have been identified of which 6.000 Kms are planned to be converted during VIII Plan subject to availability of resources. About 300 Km of track has since been converted.

Foreign Projects undertaken by Indian Railway Constructon Company

1508. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Railway Construction Company Ltd. has undertaken Foreign Projects; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Railway Construction Company Ltd. has/had undertaken Foreign Projects in Algeria, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Turkey and Zambia.

Rajdhani Express

1509. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Miniser of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the 'Rajdhani' services running at present ;

(b) what are the capacities of each one of them:

(c) what is the time taken and kilometres covered by each one of them; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to start more Rajdhani Trains in the near future; if so, when and what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) :

S. No.	Rajdhani Express	Capacity			Time Taken	Actual Kilometres in each direction.
		Ist AC	A.C. 2-tier.	AC Chair Car.		
1.	2301/2302 Howrah—New Delhi.	36	225	500	17 hrs. 50 min. 17 hrs. 45 min.	1441
2.	2951/2952 Bombay Central—New Delhi.	18	225	510	17 hrs. 00 min. 16 hrs. 30 min.	1384
3.	2953/2954 Bombay Central—New Delhi August Kranti.	36	—	536	17 hrs. 10 min. 17 hrs. 20 min.	1384
4.	2619/2620 Bangalore—Secunderabad—Hazrat Nizamuddin.	18	99	350	36 hrs. 15 min. 36 hrs. 30 min.	2425

(d) A weekly Rajdhani between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Madras is being planned.